(d) No Sir. The Namrup I & III units have-re-started production after revamp *w.e.f.* 25.3.2002 and are currently under trial run. The revamp project is expected to be completed by May, 2003.

Closure of FCI and HFC

367. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for closure of FCI and HFC and to extend Voluntary Separation Scheme to the employees numbering more than 12,000;

(b) whether VSS would cost Rs. 730 crore;

(c) if so, the source of funding; and

(d) how many of these units could be revived through infusion of this amount as promoter's contribution as equity of 30 per cent and remaining 70 per cent as debt from FIs/Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government have decided to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation. These companies have offered Voluntary Separation Scheme to all their employees numbering about 10,600 involving an approximate expenditure of Rs. 691 crore to be met through budgetary support from the Government.

(d) The revival of these units has not been found techno-economically viable.

Fertilizer policy

368. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer twelve per cent return on net worth, under the new good pricing schemes, being considered as the part of the long-term fertilizer policy;

(b) whether the retention-pricing scheme of fertilizer companies has already been abolished;

(c) if so, who would be the ultimate beneficiary of change of scheme of fertilizer policy;

(d) whether farmers would get benefit out of it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The new pricing policy for urea units, being formulated keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission, is proposed to be introduced *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003 and will replace the existing Retention Price Scheme. The new policy will be in the shape of Group Concession Scheme, which will aim at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea manufacturing units and will induce urea manufacturers to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive. The new pricing policy will not effect farm-gate price of urea as farmers would continue to get urea at statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price.

Relief package for FACT and MFL

369. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering relief packages for Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) and Madras Fertilizer Ltd. (MFL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government of India have already granted the following financial reliefs to the Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) and Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) in March, 2002 and July, 2002, respectively: